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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

6 APR 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Alexander M. Haig, Jr.
Secretary of State

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Topics (NITs)

1. A year ago Mr. Casey asked senior policymakers to give him a list of the ten or twelve most important questions they believed the Intelligence Community should address in its reporting over a period of nine to twelve months. The questions submitted were consolidated into the list of 1981 NITs of Current Interest which covered topics of priority concern. These NITs served as the focal point for the development of Community research programs and the production of a substantial amount of finished intelligence. I attach for your review at TAB A a set of brief responses to these NITs. Each response describes the Community's current state of knowledge on each topic, and also highlights intelligence gaps that remain despite ongoing efforts. []

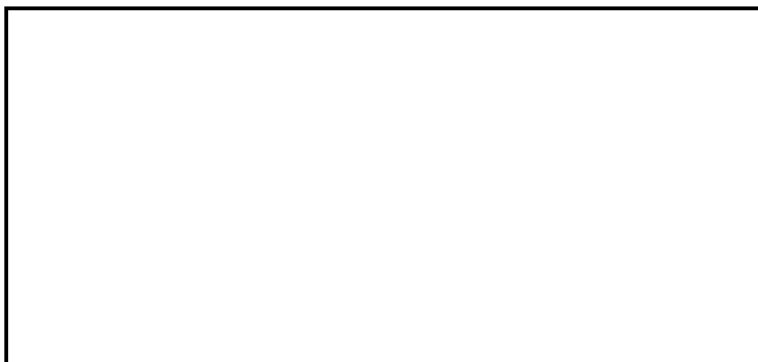
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2. Mr. Casey plans now to develop a new set of NITs for 1982 based on your review of the attached responses and identification of any ongoing or new topics of concern that you believe should be included in the 1982 NITs. After reviewing the responses, I ask you to take the time to give him a list of the ten or twelve most important questions that should be of priority concern to the Intelligence Community over the next year. He is setting 1 May as the deadline for receiving questions to be incorporated into a consolidated list that reflects the current and collective concerns of senior policymakers. Once the consolidated list is prepared, he will submit it to the SIG(I) for review and final approval. []

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3. Mr. Casey proposes to issue the new version of the NITs in July 1982. After their dissemination, he will have the Intelligence Community prepare a set of preliminary answers (stating also where more analysis or collection is needed) which would be sent to policymakers, collectors, and producers in late August. Four to six months later an updated and more complete set of answers will be prepared to start the annual review leading again to a restatement of the NITs. []

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4. In addition to the 1981 NITs of Current Interest, which the new consolidated list of questions will supplant, the document attached at TAB B also contains NITs of Continuing Interest. These provide a much more generalized and comprehensive framework for identifying substantive areas that the Intelligence Community should be working on. I would welcome any comments that you might wish to offer on these topics. [redacted]

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5. I will greatly appreciate your cooperation and also welcome any ideas that you may have on other ways for identifying your intelligence interests and priorities. My action officer for this effort is [redacted] who can be contacted on [redacted]

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/s/ B. R. Inman

B. R. INMAN
Admiral, U.S. Navy
Acting Director

Attachments:

TAB A - Response to 1981 NITs of Current Interest
TAB B - 1981 NITs of Continuing Interest

cc: Secretary of Defense
Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Secretary of the Treasury
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
Secretary of Commerce
Secretary of Energy

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